Projective, Injective, and Flat Modules

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§1 Projective Modules

Definition 1.1. An A-module M is said to be *projective* if the functor $\operatorname{Hom}_A(M, -) : \mathfrak{Mod}_A \to \mathfrak{Mod}_A$ is exact.

§§ Kaplansky's Theorem

Theorem 1.2. Let $(A, \mathfrak{m}, k)$ be a local ring. If M is a projective A-module, then M is free.

§2 Flat Modules

Definition 2.1. An A-module M is said to be *flat* if the functor $- \otimes_A M : \mathfrak{Mod}_A \to \mathfrak{Mod}_A$ is exact.

Definition 2.2. Let M be an A-module and $\sum_{i=1}^n f_i x_i = 0$ be a relation in M for $f_i \in A$ and $x_i \in M$. We say that the relation is *trivial* if there exists an integer $m \geqslant 0$, elements $y_j \in M$ for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant m$ and $a_{ij} \in A$ for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$ and $1 \leqslant j \leqslant m$ such that

$$x_i = \sum_{j=1}^m a_{ij} y_j \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \quad \text{and} \quad 0 = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} f_i \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant m.$$

Lemma 2.3 (Equational criterion of flatness). An A-module M is flat if and only if every relation in M is trivial.

Proof. Suppose M is flat and $\sum_{i=1}^n f_i x_i = 0$ is a relation in M. Let $\mathfrak{a} = (f_1, \dots, f_n) \subseteq A$ and consider the A-linear surjection $A^n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A e_i \to I$ given by $e_i \mapsto f_i$ whose kernel is $K \subseteq A^n$. That is, $0 \to K \to A^n \to \mathfrak{a} \to 0$. Since M is flat, tensoring with M preserves exactness and we have an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow K \otimes_A M \longrightarrow A^n \otimes_A M \longrightarrow \mathfrak{a} \otimes_A M \longrightarrow 0.$$

Note that the natural map $\mathfrak{a} \otimes_A M \to R \otimes_A M$ is injective due to the flatness of M. Consequently, $\sum_{i=1}^n f_i \otimes x_i$ maps to 0 in $R \otimes_A M$ and hence, must be zero in $\mathfrak{a} \otimes_A M$. The exactness of the above sequence furnishes an element $\sum_{j=1}^{m} k_j \otimes y_j \in K \otimes_A M$ that maps to 0 in $A^n \otimes_A M$.

Each k_j can be written in the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} e_i \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant m,$$

and hence, the image of $\sum_{j=1}^{m} k_j \otimes y_j$ in $A^n \otimes_A M$ is

$$\sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} a_{ij} e_i \otimes y_j = \sum_{i=1}^{n} e_i \otimes \left(\sum_{j=1}^{m} a_{ij} y_j \right) = 0,$$

and the conclusion follows.

Conversely, suppose every relation in M is trivial and let $\mathfrak{a}$ be a finitely generated ideal of A. It suffices to show that $\mathrm{Tor}_1^A(A/\mathfrak{a}, M) = 0$, which is equivalent (from the Tor long exact sequence) to showing that the map $\mathfrak{a} \otimes_A M \to A \otimes_A M$ is injective.

Suppose $\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i \otimes x_i \in \mathfrak{a} \otimes_A M$ maps to 0 in $A \otimes_A M$. Then, $\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i x_i = 0$ in M, consequently, there is an $m \geqslant 0$, $y_j \in M$, $a_{ij} \in M$ for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$ and $1 \leqslant j \leqslant m$ such that

$$x_i = \sum_{j=1}^{m} a_{ij} y_j \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \quad \text{and} \quad 0 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} f_i \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant m.$$

Consequently, in $\mathfrak{a} \otimes_A M$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i \otimes x_i = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i \otimes \left(\sum_{j=1}^{m} a_{ij} y_j \right) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} f_i \right) \otimes y_j = 0.$$

This proves injectivity, thereby completing the proof. ∎

Lemma 2.4. Let $(A, \mathfrak{m}, k)$ be a local ring and M a flat A-module. If $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in M$ are such that their images $\overline{x}_1, \ldots, \overline{x}_n \in M/\mathfrak{m}M$ are linearly independent over k, then $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ are linearly independent over A.

Proof. We prove this statement by induction on n. If $n = 1$, then $a \in A$ is such that $a x_1 = 0$ and $\overline{x}_1 \neq 0$. From Lemma 2.3, there are $b_1, \ldots, b_m \in A$ and $y_1, \ldots, y_m \in M$ such that

$$x_1 = \sum_{j=1}^{m} b_j y_j \quad \text{and} \quad a b_j = 0 \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant m.$$

Since $x_1 \notin \mathfrak{m}M$, it follows that at least one of the b_j's must be a unit, whence $a = 0$.

Now, suppose $n > 1$ and there is a relation $\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i x_i = 0$ in M. From Lemma 2.3, there is an $m \geqslant 0$, $y_j \in M$, and $b_{ij} \in A$ for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$ and $1 \leqslant j \leqslant m$ such that

$$x_i = \sum_{j=1}^{m} b_{ij} y_j \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \quad \text{and} \quad 0 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} b_{ij} a_i \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant m.$$

Since $x_n \notin \mathfrak{m}M$, at least one of the b_{nj}'s must be a unit, whence we can write

$$a_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} c_i a_i,$$

for some $c_i \in A$ for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant n-1$. Therefore, we have

$$0 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i x_i = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i (x_i + c_i x_n).$$

Since $\overline{x}_1, \ldots, \overline{x}_{n-1}$ are k-linearly independent in $M/\mathfrak{m}M$, we see that $\overline{x}_1 + \overline{c}_1\overline{x}_n, \ldots, \overline{x}_{n-1} + \overline{c}_{n-1}\overline{x}_n$ must also be k-linearly independent. Due to the induction hypothesis, $a_1 = \cdots = a_{n-1} = 0$ and hence, $a_n = 0$. This completes the proof. ■

THEOREM 2.5. Let $(A, \mathfrak{m}, k)$ be a local ring. If M is a finitely generated flat A-module, then M is free.

Proof. Let $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in M$ be a minimal generating set, that is, $\overline{x}_1, \ldots, \overline{x}_n$ are k-linearly independent in $M/\mathfrak{m}M$. Due to the preceding lemma, $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ are linearly independent over A, and hence, M is a free A-module. ■

§§ Cartier's Theorem

THEOREM 2.6 (CARTIER). Let M be a finitely generated module over an integral domain A. If for every $\mathfrak{m} \in \operatorname{MaxSpec}(A)$, $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is free as an $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$-module, then M is a projective A-module.

Proof. First show that M is a torsion-free A-module. Suppose $am = 0$ for some $0 \neq a \in A$ and $m \in M$. Let $\mathfrak{a}$ be the annihilator of m in A and $\mathfrak{m}$ a maximal ideal containing A. Note that $\frac{a}{1}\frac{m}{1} = 0$ in $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$, which is free over $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$, an integral domain, whence, is torsion free. That is, $\frac{m}{1} = 0$, whence, there is some $s \in A \setminus \mathfrak{m}$ such that $sm = 0$, which is absurd, since $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$. This shows that M is torsion-free.

Now, choose a set of generators $\{m_i \colon 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n\}$ for M over A. Let $\mathscr{P}$ be the collection of A-endomorphisms of M which are of the form

$$m \longmapsto \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(m) m_i,$$

where $f_1, \ldots, f_n : M \to A$ are A-module homomorphisms. Note that $\mathscr{P}$ is an A-submodule of $\operatorname{End}_A(M)$. We shall show that $\mathbf{id}_M \in \mathscr{P}$.

Let $\mathfrak{m}$ be a maximal ideal of A. We know that $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is free as an $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$-module and hence, there are $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$-module homomorphisms $f_i : M_{\mathfrak{m}} \to A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ such that

$$m' = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i'(m') \frac{m_i}{1} \quad \forall m' \in M_{\mathfrak{m}}.$$

To see that this is possible, first consider an $A_\mathfrak{m}$-basis $\{e_i\colon 1 \leqslant i \leqslant N\}$ for $M_\mathfrak{m}$. We can write

$$e_i = \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}\frac{m_j}{1} \quad \forall\, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant N.$$

Further, there are $A_\mathfrak{m}$-linear maps $f_i : M_\mathfrak{m} \to A_\mathfrak{m}$ such that

$$m' = \sum_{j=1}^{N} f_j(m')e_j.$$

Set

$$f'_j(m') = \sum_{i=1}^{N} a_{ij} f_i(m') \quad \forall\, m' \in M_\mathfrak{m}.$$

Then,

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} f'_j(m')\frac{m_j}{1} = \sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} f_i(m')\frac{m_j}{1} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i(m')e_i = m'.$$

Coming back, since M is torsion-free, the canonical map $M \to M_\mathfrak{m}$ is an injective map of A-modules. Further, we can find an $s \in A \setminus \mathfrak{m}$ such that $sf'_i\left(\frac{m_j}{1}\right) \in A$ for $1 \leqslant i, j \leqslant n$.

Note that $m' \mapsto sf'_i(m')$ is $A_\mathfrak{m}$-linear as a map $M_\mathfrak{m} \to A_\mathfrak{m}$, and hence, is A-linear. The restriction of this map to $M \subseteq M_\mathfrak{m}$ takes values in A. Thus, we can identify sf'_i with an A-linear map $M \to A$. Further, for every $m \in M$, we have

$$sm = \sum_{i=1}^{n} sf'_i(m)m_i.$$

That is, $s \cdot \mathbf{id}_M \in \mathscr{P}$. Now, let $\mathfrak{a}$ be the collection of all $a \in A$ such that $a \cdot \mathbf{id}_M \in \mathscr{P}$. Then $\mathfrak{a}$ is an ideal of A. If $\mathfrak{a}$ were a proper ideal, it would be contained in a maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m}$. But from our preceding conclusion, there is some $s \in A \setminus \mathfrak{m}$ such that $s \cdot \mathbf{id}_M \in \mathscr{P}$, a contradiction. Thus, $\mathfrak{a} = A$, in particular, $\mathbf{id}_M \in \mathscr{P}$.

Finally, we show that M is projective. We have shown that there are A-linear maps $f_i : M \to A$ such that

$$m = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(m)m_i \quad \forall\, m \in M.$$

Let F be the free module $\bigoplus_{i=1}^{n} Ae_i$ and let $g : F \to M$ be given by $e_i \mapsto m_i$ and $f : M \to F$ given by

$$f(m) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(m)e_i.$$

By our construction, $g \circ f = \mathbf{id}_M$, and hence M is a direct summand of F, i.e. M is projective. ∎

Corollary. A finitely generated flat module over an integral domain is projective.

Proof. Follows from Theorem 2.6 and Theorem 2.5. ∎

§§ Finitely Presented Modules and Flatness

THEOREM 2.7. Let M be a finitely presented A-module and N be any A-module. If B is a flat A-algebra, then there is a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Hom}_A(M, N) \otimes_A B \cong \mathrm{Hom}_B(M \otimes_A B, N \otimes_A B).$$

Proof. Fixing N and B, there are contravariant functors $\mathscr{F}, \mathscr{G} : \mathfrak{Mod}_A^{op} \to \mathfrak{Mod}_B$ given by

$$\mathscr{F}(M) = \mathrm{Hom}_A(M, N) \otimes_A B \qquad \mathscr{G}(M) = \mathrm{Hom}_B(M \otimes_A B, N \otimes_A B).$$

Define the natural transformation $\lambda : \mathscr{F} \implies \mathscr{G}$ given by

$$\lambda_M(f \otimes b) = b \cdot (f \otimes \mathbf{id}_B).$$

We first show that this is natural in M. Indeed, suppose $\varphi : M' \to M$ is A-linear, we wish to show that

$$\begin{tikzcd} \mathscr{F}(M) \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "\lambda_M"'] & \mathscr{F}(M') \arrow[d, "\lambda_{M'}"] \\ \mathscr{G}(M) \arrow[r] & \mathscr{G}(M') \end{tikzcd}$$

commutes. Consider $f \otimes b \in \mathscr{F}(M)$, which maps to $f \circ \varphi \otimes b \in \mathscr{F}(M')$, which maps to $b \cdot (f \circ \varphi \otimes \mathbf{id}_B) \in \mathscr{G}(M')$. On the other hand, under λ_M, $f \otimes b$ maps to $b \cdot (f \otimes \mathbf{id}_B) \in \mathscr{G}(M)$, which maps to $b \cdot (f \circ \varphi \otimes \mathbf{id}_B)$, which shows commutativity.

Next, suppose $M = A^n$ were free of finite rank. In this case, there is a sequence of isomorphisms

$$\mathrm{Hom}_A(A^n, N) \otimes_A B \cong N^n \otimes_A B \cong (N \otimes_A B)^n \cong \mathrm{Hom}_B(B^n, N \otimes_A B) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_B(A^n \otimes_A B, N \otimes_A B).$$

Under the above isomorphism, $f \otimes b$ first maps to $(f(e_1), \ldots, f(e_n))^\top \otimes b$ in $N^n \otimes_A B$. Under the second map, it goes to $(f(e_1) \otimes b, \ldots, f(e_n) \otimes b)^\top$ in $(N \otimes_A B)^n$. Under the third map it goes to the unique morpism $g : B^n \to N \otimes_A B$ that sends $e_i \mapsto f(e_i) \otimes b$.

Consider the map $b \cdot (f \otimes \mathbf{id}_B) \in \mathrm{Hom}_B(A^n \otimes_A B, N \otimes_A B)$. Under this map, $e_i \in B^n$ is the same as $e_i \otimes 1 \in A^n \otimes B$, which maps to $b \cdot (f(e_i) \otimes 1) = f(e_i) \otimes b \in N \otimes_A B$. It follows that this is the same as the aforementioned g. Thus, λ_M is an isomorphism in this case.

Finally, there is an exact sequence $A^m \to A^n \to M \to 0$ since M is finitely presented. This fits into a commutative diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} 0 \arrow[r] \arrow[d, equal] & \mathscr{F}(M) \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "\lambda"] & \mathscr{F}(A^n) \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "\lambda"] & \mathscr{F}(A^m) \arrow[d, "\lambda"] \\ 0 \arrow[r] & \mathscr{G}(M) \arrow[r] & \mathscr{G}(A^n) \arrow[r] & \mathscr{G}(A^m) \end{tikzcd}$$

where the last two λ's are isomorphisms. Due to the Five Lemma (after adding another column of zeros to the left), we see that $\lambda_M : \mathscr{F}(M) \to \mathscr{G}(M)$ must be an isomorphism, thereby completing the proof. ∎

COROLLARY. Let M be a finitely presented A-module and N be any A-module. Then for every $\mathfrak{p} \in \operatorname{Spec}(A)$,
$$\operatorname{Hom}_A(M, N)_{\mathfrak{p}} \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{A_{\mathfrak{p}}}(M_{\mathfrak{p}}, N_{\mathfrak{p}}).$$

Proof. Note that the localization functor at $\mathfrak{p} \in \operatorname{Spec}(A)$ is naturally isomorphic to $- \otimes_A A_{\mathfrak{p}}$. ■

THEOREM 2.8. Let M be a finitely presented A-module. Then the following are equivalent

(a) M is projective.

(b) $M_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is a free $A_{\mathfrak{p}}$-module for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \operatorname{Spec}(A)$.

(c) $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a free $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$-module for all $\mathfrak{m} \in \operatorname{MaxSpec}(A)$.

Proof. That $(a) \implies (b) \implies (c)$ is obvious. It suffices to show that $(c) \implies (a)$. To this end, we shall show that $\operatorname{Hom}_A(M, -)$ is an exact functor. We know that $\operatorname{Hom}_A(M, -)$ is left exact so let $0 \to N' \to N \to N'' \to 0$ be a short exact sequence. Upon application of the above functor, note that we have an exact sequence
$$0 \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_A(M, N') \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_A(M, N) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_A(M, N'') \to K \to 0,$$
where K is the cokernel. Localizing the above sequence at a maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m}$ and using the exactness of localization and the preceding result, we have an exact sequence
$$0 \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{A_{\mathfrak{m}}}(M_{\mathfrak{m}}, N'_{\mathfrak{m}}) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{A_{\mathfrak{m}}}(M_{\mathfrak{m}}, N_{\mathfrak{m}}) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{A_{\mathfrak{m}}}(M_{\mathfrak{m}}, N''_{\mathfrak{m}}) \to K_{\mathfrak{m}} \to 0.$$
But since $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is a free $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$-module, the functor $\operatorname{Hom}_{A_{\mathfrak{m}}}(M_{\mathfrak{m}}, -)$ is exact, whence $K_{\mathfrak{m}} = 0$ for every $\mathfrak{m} \in \operatorname{MaxSpec}(A)$. This shows that $K = 0$, that is, M is projective. ■

§3 INJECTIVE MODULES

DEFINITION 3.1. An A-module M is said to be *injective* if the (contravariant) functor $\operatorname{Hom}_A(-, M) : \mathfrak{Mod}_A^{op} \to \mathfrak{Mod}_A$ is exact.

THEOREM 3.2 (BAER'S CRITERION). An A-module E is injective if and only if for every ideal $\mathfrak{a} \trianglelefteq A$, every A-linear map $\mathfrak{a} \to E$ can be extended to an A-linear map $A \to E$.

Proof. The forward direction is tautological. We prove the converse. Suppose $N \leqslant M$ are A-modules and $\alpha : N \to E$ is an A-linear map. We shall extend α to a map $M \to E$.

Let Σ be the collection of all pairs (N', α') where $N \leqslant N' \leqslant M$ and $\alpha' : N' \to E$ is A-linear such that $\alpha'|_N = \alpha$. Using a standard Zorn argument, Σ admits a maximal element $\alpha' : N' \to E$ extending α. We contend that $N' = M$.

Suppose not. Then choose some $x \in M \setminus N'$ and let $\mathfrak{a} = (N' :_A x) \trianglelefteq A$. Consider the composite map $\mathfrak{a} \xrightarrow{x} N' \xrightarrow{\alpha'} E$, which extends to a map $f : A \to E$ and set $N'' = N' + Ax \leqslant M$. Define $\alpha'' : N'' \to E$ by
$$\alpha''(n' + ax) = \alpha'(n') + f(a).$$

This is well defined, for if $n'_1 + a_1 x = n'_2 + a_2 x$, then $(a_1 - a_2)x = n'_2 - n'_1$, i.e. $(a_1 - a_2) \in \mathfrak{a}$ and hence,

$$f(a_1 - a_2) = \alpha'((a_1 - a_2)x) = \alpha'(n'_2 - n'_1).$$

But note that $(N', \alpha') < (N'', \alpha'')$ in Σ, a contradiction. Thus $N' = M$ and we are done. ∎

Corollary. Let A be a noetherian ring. If $\{E_i \colon i \in I\}$ is a collection of injective A-modules, then $E = \bigoplus_{i \in I} E_i$ is an injective A-module.

Proof. Let $\mathfrak{a} \trianglelefteq A$ and $f : \mathfrak{a} \to E$ be A-linear. Note that $\mathfrak{a} = (a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ is finitely generated, and each $f(a_i)$ has support contained in a finite subset of I. Thus, $f(\mathfrak{a})$ is contained in a direct sum of a finite subset of $\{E_i \colon i \in I\}$. But note that a finite direct sum of injectives in injective over any ring, and hence, f can be extended to all of A, thereby completing the proof. ∎

Corollary. Let A be a PID. An A-module E is injective if and only if it is divisible.

Proof. Immediate from Theorem 3.2. ∎

§§ Injective Hulls

Definition 3.3. Let $M \leqslant E$ be A-modules. Then E is said to be an *essential extension* of M if every non-zero submodule of E intersects M non-trivially. We denote this by $M \leqslant_e E$.

Remark 3.4. The above is equivalent to requiring that for every $x \in E \setminus \{0\}$, there is an $a \in A \setminus \{0\}$ such that $ax \in M \setminus \{0\}$.

We note some trivial properties of essential extensions before proceeding.

Proposition 3.5. Let $L \leqslant M \leqslant N$ be A-modules. Then

$$L \leqslant_e M \text{ and } M \leqslant_e N \iff L \leqslant_e N.$$

Proof. Straightforward. ∎

Proposition 3.6. Let $M \leqslant E$ be A-modules. Consider the set

$$\mathcal{E} = \{N \leqslant E \colon M \leqslant_e N\}.$$

Then $\mathcal{E}$ has a maximal element.

Proof. Standard application of Zorn's lemma. ∎

Proposition 3.7. If $N_1 \leqslant_e M_1$ and $N_2 \leqslant_e M_2$, then $N_1 \oplus N_2 \leqslant_e M_1 \oplus M_2$.

Proof. Trivial. ∎

REMARK 3.8. Before we proceed, we make an important observation. Suppose $M \leqslant_e N$ and suppose there is a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{tikzcd} N \arrow[dr, "f"] & \\ M \arrow[u, hook] \arrow[r, hook] & E. \end{tikzcd}$$

We claim that f is injective. Indeed, due to the commutativity of the diagram, $\ker f \cap M = 0$, but since $M \leqslant_e N$, we have that $\ker f = 0$.

DEFINITION 3.9. Let $M \leqslant E$ be A-modules. Then E is said to be an *injective hull* of M if E is an injective A-module and $M \leqslant_e E$. It is customary to denote E by $E_A(M)$.

PROPOSITION 3.10. Suppose $M \leqslant E$ and $N \leqslant F$ are A-modules such that E and F are injective hulls of M and N respectively. Then $E \oplus F$ is an injective hullof $M \oplus N$.

Proof. Obviously $E \oplus F$ is injective and due to the preceding result, an essential extension of $M \oplus N$. The conclusion follows. ■

PROPOSITION 3.11. An A-module E is injective if and only if E has no proper essential extensions.

Proof. Suppose E were injective and $E \leqslant_e M$. Then, there is a submodule N of M such that $M = E \oplus N$. If N were non-trivial, then it would intersect E trivially, thus N must be trivial and $E = M$.

Conversely, suppose E has no proper essential extensions. There is an injective module I such that $E \hookrightarrow I$. We shall show that E is a direct summand of I. Indeed, consider the collection

$$\Sigma = \{N \leqslant I \colon E \cap N = 0\}.$$

A standard application of Zorn's lemma furnishes a maximal element N of Σ. Note that if M is a submodule of I properly containing N, then $E \cap M \neq 0$. The canonical projection $I \twoheadrightarrow I/N$ restricts to an injective map on E and any submodule of I/N is of the form M/N for some M containing N. Thus, it follows that $E \hookrightarrow I/N$ is an essential extension. But since E does not admit any proper essential extensions, we must have that the aforementioned map is surjective, that is, $E + N = I$, whence $E \oplus N = I$ and hence, E is injective. ■

THEOREM 3.12. Let $M \leqslant E$ be A-modules. The following are equivalent:

(a) E is an injective hull of M.

(b) E is a minimal injective A-module containing M.

(c) E is a maximal essential extension of M.

Proof. $(a) \implies (b)$ Suppose I is an injective module such that $M \leqslant I \leqslant E$. Since $M \leqslant_e E$, we have that $I \leqslant_e E$. But due to Proposition 3.11, we see that $I = E$.

$(b) \implies (c)$ Let $N \leqslant E$ be a maximal element of $\{N \leqslant E\colon M \leqslant_e N\}$. We contend that N has no proper essential extensions. Suppose $f : N \hookrightarrow L$ is an essential extension. Then, there is a map $L \to E$ making

$$\begin{tikzcd} & & E \\ 0 \arrow[r] & N \arrow[r, "f"'] \arrow[ur, hook] & L \arrow[u] \end{tikzcd}$$

commute. We claim that the map $L \to E$ is injective. Indeed, if $0 \neq x \in L$ maps to 0, then there is an $0 \neq a \in A$ such that $0 \neq ax \in f(N)$. But since $N \hookrightarrow E$, we have that $ax = 0$, a contradiction. Thus, in E, $L = N$, since N has no proper essential extensions in E. Consequently, N has no proper essential extensions, that is, N is injective, whence $N = E$.

$(c) \implies (a)$ Injectivity follows from the fact that E has no proper essential extensions due to maximality. ■

THEOREM 3.13. Let M be an A-module. Then there exists an injective hull $M \hookrightarrow E$, which is unique up to isomorphism.

Proof. Let I be an injective module such that $M \hookrightarrow I$. Using $(b) \implies (c)$ of the proof of Theorem 3.12, we see that a maximal essential extension E of M contained in I is an injective hull.

It remains to establish uniqueness. Suppose $M \hookrightarrow E'$ is another injective hull. Then, there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} & E' \\ M \arrow[r, hook] \arrow[ur, hook] & E \arrow[u] \end{tikzcd}$$

with the induced map $E \to E'$ injective as argued in the preceding proof. The maximality of essentialness and transitivity of essentialness both imply that $E \to E'$ must be an isomorphism. ■

THEOREM 3.14 (CANTOR-SCHRÖDER-BERNSTEIN). If M and N are injective A-modules with injective A-linear maps $M \hookrightarrow N$ and $N \hookrightarrow M$, then $M \cong N$.

Proof. We may suppose that $N \leqslant M$, whence there is a submodule P of M such that $M = N \oplus P$ where P is injective too. Let $f : M \to N$ be an injective A-linear map.

Note first that if $x_0 + f(x_1) + \cdots + f^{(n)}(x_n) = 0$ where $x_i \in P$, then all $x_i = 0$. Indeed, $f(x_1) + \cdots + f^{(n)}(x_n) \in \operatorname{im}(f) \subseteq N$ and $x_0 \in P$, whence $x_0 = 0$. Since f is injective, we have $x_1 + \cdots + f^{(n-1)}(x_n) = 0$. Working downwards, we have our conclusion.

Now, set $X = P \oplus f(P) \oplus f^{(2)}(P) \oplus \cdots \subseteq M$ and let $E = E_A(f(X)) \subseteq N$ an injective hull. Write $N = E \oplus Q$. Since $X = P \oplus f(X)$, we have

$$E(X) \cong E(P \oplus f(X)) \cong E(P) \oplus E(f(X)) \cong P \oplus E.$$

On the other hand, since f is injective,

$$E(X) \cong E(f(X)) = E \implies P \oplus E \cong E.$$

Consequently,

$$M = N \oplus P = Q \oplus E \oplus P \cong Q \oplus E \cong N,$$

thereby completing the proof. ■

PROPOSITION 3.15. Let A be a noetherian ring and M an A-module. Then $\mathrm{Ass}_A(E(M)) = \mathrm{Ass}_A(M)$. In particular, $E(A/\mathfrak{p}) = \{\mathfrak{p}\}$ for every $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathrm{Spec}(A)$.

Proof. Since $M \hookrightarrow E(M)$, we have that $\mathrm{Ass}_A(M) \subseteq \mathrm{Ass}_A(E(M))$. Conversely, suppose $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathrm{Ass}_A(E(M))$, that is, $R/\mathfrak{p} \hookrightarrow E(M)$ and identify $R/\mathfrak{p}$ with a submodule of $E(M)$. Since $M \leqslant_e E(M)$, $(R/\mathfrak{p}) \cap M \neq 0$. Choosing a non-zero x in the intersection, we have that $\mathrm{Ann}_A(x) = \mathfrak{p}$, that is, $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathrm{Ass}_A(M)$. This completes the proof. ■

DEFINITION 3.16. A nonzero A-module M is said to be *decomposable* if there are nonzero submodules $N_1, N_2 \leqslant M$ such that $M = N_1 \oplus N_2$. An A-module that is not decomposable is said to be *indecomposable*.

THEOREM 3.17 (MATLIS). Let A be a noetherian ring and M an A-module. Then,

(a) E is an indecomposable injective A-module if and only if $E \cong E(A/\mathfrak{p})$ for some $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathrm{Spec}(A)$.

(b) $E_A(A/\mathfrak{p}) \not\cong E(A/\mathfrak{q})$ if $\mathfrak{p} \neq \mathfrak{q} \in \mathrm{Spec}(A)$.

(c) every injective A-module can be written as a direct sum of indecomposable A-modules.

Proof. (a) Suppose E is an indecomposable injective A-module and choose some $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathrm{Ass}_A(E)$. There is an injection $A/\mathfrak{p} \hookrightarrow E$, which extends to an injection (due to Remark 3.8) $E(A/\mathfrak{p}) \hookrightarrow E$. Since E is indecomposable, $E \cong E(A/\mathfrak{p})$.

Conversely, we must show that $E = E(A/\mathfrak{p})$ is indecomposable. Suppose $E = E_1 \oplus E_2$. The map $A/\mathfrak{p} \hookrightarrow E_1 \oplus E_2$ sends $\overline{1} \in A/\mathfrak{p}$ to some $(x_1, x_2) \in E_1 \oplus E_2$. Then,

$$\mathfrak{p} = \mathrm{Ann}_A((x_1, x_2)) = \mathrm{Ann}_A(x_1) \cap \mathrm{Ann}_A(x_2),$$

whence, we may suppose without loss of generality that $\mathfrak{p} = \mathrm{Ann}_A(x_1)$. Consequently, the composition $A/\mathfrak{p} \hookrightarrow E \twoheadrightarrow E_1$ is injective. This means that $E \twoheadrightarrow E_1$ is a lift of an injection $A/\mathfrak{p} \hookrightarrow E_1$, whence $E \twoheadrightarrow E_1$ must be injective (due to Remark 3.8), that means $E_2 = 0$, as desired.

(b) Follows from the fact that $\mathrm{Ass}_A(E(A/\mathfrak{p})) = \{\mathfrak{p}\}$.

(c) This is another standard Zorn argument. Begin with the collection

$$\Sigma = \left\{\{E_i\}_{i \in I} : \text{each } E_i \text{ is indecomposable injective, and their sum is direct}\right\}.$$

Choose a maximal element $\{E_i\}_{i \in J}$ in Σ and let $I = \bigoplus_{i \in J} E_i$. Suppose $I \neq E$. Since I is injective (owing to A being noetherian), we can write $E = I \oplus E'$. Since $E' \neq 0$, it has an associated prime, $\mathfrak{p}$. We can then write $E' = E(A/\mathfrak{p}) \oplus E''$, contradicting the maximality of $\{E_i\}_{i \in J}$. This completes the proof. ■

§4 Uncategorized

§§ Eakin-Nagata Theorem

Theorem 4.1 (Formanek). Let A be a ring, and B a finitely generated faithful A-module. Suppose the set of A-submodules $\Sigma = \{\mathfrak{a}B \colon \mathfrak{a} \trianglelefteq A\}$ has the ascending chain condition, then A is noetherian.

Proof. It suffices to show that B is a noetherian A-module since it is finitely generated and faithful. Suppose not. Then consider the collection

$$\Gamma = \{\mathfrak{a}B \colon \mathfrak{a} \trianglelefteq A,\ B/\mathfrak{a}B \text{ is a non-noetherian } A\text{-module}\},$$

which contains (0) and hence is non-empty. Since Σ has the ascending chain condition, so does Γ, whence, it contains a maximal element $\mathfrak{a}B$.

Replacing B by $B/\mathfrak{a}B$, we see that B is a non-noetherian A-module. This may not be faithful and hence, replace A by $A/\operatorname{Ann}_A(B)$. Then, B is a finite, non-noetherian, faithful A-module such that for every ideal $0 \neq \mathfrak{a} \lhd A$, $B/\mathfrak{a}B$ is a noetherian A-module.

Next, set

$$\mathfrak{M} = \{N \leqslant B \colon B/N \text{ is a faithful } A\text{-module}\},$$

which is non-empty, since $\{0\} \in \mathfrak{M}$. Suppose B is generated as an A-module by $b_1, \ldots, b_n$. It is not hard to argue that

$$N \in \mathfrak{M} \iff \forall\, a \in A \setminus \{0\},\ \{ab_1, \ldots, ab_n\} \not\subseteq N.$$

It follows that every chain in $\mathfrak{M}$ has a maximal element and hence Zorn's Lemma applies to furnish a maximal element $N_0 \in \Gamma$.

If B/N_0 is a noetherian A-module, then A is noetherian since B/N_0 is faithful and finite. If not, replace B with B/N_0, which is still a finite faithful A-module and satisfies:

(1) B is a non-noetherian A-module.

(2) for any ideal $0 \neq \mathfrak{a} \trianglelefteq A$, $B/\mathfrak{a}B$ is a noetherian A-module.

(3) for any submodule $0 \neq N$ of B, B/N is not faithful as an A-module.

Now, let N be a non-zero submodule of B. Due to (3), there is a $0 \neq a \in A$ such that $aB \subseteq N$. Due to (2), B/aB is a noetherian A-module with N/aB as a submodule. Thus, N/aB is a noetherian, in particular, a finite A-module. Since aB is also finite as an A-module, we have that N is a finite A-module. Hence, B is a noetherian A-module, which is absurd. This completes the proof. ■

Theorem 4.2 (Eakin-Nagata). Let $A \subseteq B$ be an extension of rings such that B is a finite A-module. If B is a noetherian ring, then so is A.

Proof. Note that B is a finite, faithful A-module, since $1 \in B$. The conclusion follows from Theorem 4.1. ■